



# CDHH e-Newsletter

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

September, 2010

Volume 4, Number 1

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including board members, staff, statute, and bylaws

## Director's Message



### Education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

It is always refreshing to see the result our work of bringing awareness to different agencies and organizations on how to meet deaf and hard of hearing individuals' needs. This kind of work will not cease anytime soon. We have been receiving acknowledgement and appreciation from both the individuals and organizations for the assistances we have been providing to them. It is not an easy task considering our tight budget. During the past a couple of months we tackled several important issues, including submitting budgetary proposal to the federal's Rehabilitation Services Administration to receive ongoing federal fiscal support beginning fiscal year 2011. We await their decision. Hopefully we will hear from them soon. The Council is committed to being more fiscally vigilant and raising the bar by being innovative in implementing ideas on how to perform our statutorily duties with a minimal cost.

I would like to briefly discuss an issue pertaining education for the deaf and hard of hearing. I would like to extract two portions from an recent article in USATODAY publication:

*"One in five American teenagers now suffers from some type of hearing loss, an increase of 31% since the mid-'90s, new research shows... "Other studies show that even a small hearing loss can harm a child's school performance, language development and social interactions..."*

([http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-08-18-hearing18\\_st\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-08-18-hearing18_st_N.htm))

This unexpected growth brings our attention to this reality check: many schools might not be prepared to serve and/or accommodate these young students. Also a reality check shows that close to 90 percent of our deaf and hard of hearing students are now mainstreamed. This stresses the importance of CDHH as statewide resource agency to promote collaborative partnerships with local school districts and ensure high quality deaf educational services.

Strong leadership by deaf and hard of hearing advocates and professionals at the local and state level, working closely with parents, school personnel and administrators, indeed makes a difference. Research data is also vital in terms of helping parents learn more about their options as well as educating local educational agencies (LEAs) and school districts on the need for specialized educational and professional services for deaf children.

Together, we can be a powerful force. Perhaps it is time to redefine where and how we reach every deaf and hard of hearing student. This close-to-90 percent statistic and rapid growth of hearing loss in young teenagers are pretty powerful considering where

## Contact Us

[www.cdhh.idaho.gov](http://www.cdhh.idaho.gov)

208-334-0879 vp/v

208-334-0803 tty

we are with deaf education. Everything we do must center on this reality. The role of CDHH must be to reach out those who are left behind with very scant resources and support systems.

This invisible disability among the children is increasing annually at an alarming rate and our goal is to unite together to bring our message to the community, agencies, and programs. Our combined efforts will bring forth more awareness and hopefully bring much needed support from the community and organizations of the State of Idaho.

Such advocacy begins with you, at the local level. Forming partnerships with one family at a time leads to support groups then with local organizations, onward to the state level.

Let me hear from you. You are also responsible for the future of Idaho's deaf and hard of hearing children. Look at the deaf children around you. They are looking at you! I promise the support of the Council in this effort. Don't let them fall between the cracks! Act now!

Steven Snow

Executive Director

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## Dogs for the Deaf



# Hearing Dogs *for Deaf People*

Dogs for the Deaf

Established in 1977 in Central Point, Oregon, Dogs for the Deaf provides free hearing dogs for people who are deaf.

### ABOUT THE DOGS

Hearing Dogs are chosen from animal shelter, where they might otherwise be euthanized. The dogs are usually mixed breeds, small to medium in size, and up to 36 months of age. The trainers look for dogs that are friendly, energetic, healthy, and intelligent. Those passing the aptitude tests are brought to the facility for a medical evaluation and vaccinations. All dogs are spayed/neutered and then entered into an intensive four to six months of training.

The dogs learn to respond to verbal and hand signals, and are taught to work for toys and affection. They are trained to make physical contact and lead their teammates to

the source of the sound.

### **ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS**

People who appreciate the loyalty and companionship that a dog provides can benefit from the services. Any person who is deaf, severely hard of hearing, or has another type of special need that can be helped by a dog, may qualify for one of the specially trained dogs.

All applicants must agree to meet certain requirements:

- ❖ A loving, caring home for the dog.
- ❖ Regular practice sessions to maintain the dog's obedience training and special skills.
- ❖ A fenced yard or fenced area. (Waived under certain circumstances).
- ❖ Responsible dog ownership.

Hearing Dog recipients cannot have any other dogs in their household. Dogs for the Deaf does NOT provide training for dogs already owned by the applicant.

### **Placement and Follow-up**

Hearing Dogs, accompanied by a trainer, go to the home of the recipient. The trainer spends about a week teaching him/her how to keep the dog working the sounds consistently and how to maintain the dog's obedience training.

Following the placement, the recipient must report regularly on the progress of the dog. If any problems arise or the recipient has any questions, the trainer offers help and answers questions. In-home follow-up is also done on a regular basis.

### **How To Apply**

Those interested in applying for a Hearing Dog should write or call Dogs for the Deaf and ask for application information. Dogs are placed FREE of charge with applicants nationwide and in Canada. The total cost of operating Dogs for the Deaf, Inc. comes from contributions from individuals, service clubs, businesses, foundations, memorial fund designations and bequests. Dogs for the Deaf, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization approved by the Internal Revenue Service. Donations are tax deductible according to current law. NO TAX DOLLARS support this program.

Dogs for the Deaf, Inc.  
10175 Wheeler Road  
Central Point, OR 97502  
Voice/TDD (541) 826-9220 Fax (541) 826-6696  
Email: [info@dogsforthe deaf.org](mailto:info@dogsforthe deaf.org)

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## **A Huge Step Forward for People with Disabilities: On the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA, the U.S. House Passed H.R. 3101**

On Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), we have more reason to celebrate; the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3101, the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, 348-23. The bill now moves to the Senate.

This measure updates our nation's communications laws to ensure that new technologies are accessible to people with disabilities and gives deaf and hard of hearing individuals improved access to television programming, smart phones, the Internet, menus on DVD players and cable TV, and more. Specifically, if signed into law, H.R. 3101 will:

- Require new video programming that is captioned on television to be captioned when distributed on the Internet;
- Provide up to \$10 million annually for specialized communications equipment for low income individuals who are deaf-blind;
- Require telephones that use the Internet to be hearing aid compatible;
- Enable users of different equipment to communicate with each other through relay services, such as TTY users communicating with videophone users; and
- Require devices with screens less than 13" to display closed captions.

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing applauds the U.S. House for their leadership on this legislation, and we are particularly thankful to Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), the original sponsor and champion of H.R. 3101. The bill now takes up to the Senate for vote and ensure that this life-changing legislation is sent to the President's desk.

Twenty years ago yesterday when the ADA was signed into law, no one could have predicted the new technologies — from smart phones to the Internet — that now shape our daily lives and work routines. It is time to make sure that the 136,000 Idahoans along with the 25 million deaf and hard of hearing Americans can fully participate in the digital era. Yesterday marks a huge step forward in making that a reality.

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## IESDB Board of Directors Appoints a new Administrator, Brian Darcy



*Published in IESDB press release, August 18, 2010*

Vice Chairman of the Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind Board of Directors, Steven Snow, is pleased to announce the hiring of Brian G. Darcy as the new Administrator. A graduate of Gooding High School, Brian earned his Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Psychology from Carroll College and a Master of Science in Deaf Education from Idaho State University.

After several years working as the Statewide Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the Idaho Vocational Rehabilitation, he started his own business, Big Sky Rehabilitation, Inc and served as its President for nine years. He has also served as Senior Adjudicator for disability determinations under the Department of Labor.

For the past year, he has been working as the Transition Specialist for the IESDB in the Post Secondary Transition Program.

Mr. Snow expressed the Board's reasons for hiring Mr. Darcy, "Our principal criterion

for our new Administrator was selecting an innovative leader whose first concern is the success of our deaf and blind children". Snow further added, "Mr. Darcy's track record shows that he supports collaboration, both horizontally and vertically to ensure the bureau is working toward the same goal of helping every student achieve. He has also demonstrated exceptional strength in establishing strong ties to a diverse community and to stakeholders. We are energized to see what he can do here at the IESDB. Please welcome him aboard".

It is with great excitement that we embark on this new chapter in the long-term success of the IESDB.

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## New National Organization for the Deaf Formed



For the past year, Steven Snow, Executive Director of Idaho CDHH and other directors of state agencies/commissions that serve deaf and hard of hearing population across the United States collaborated and implemented a new organization called National Association of State Agencies of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (**NASADHH**). The organization meets every two

years at the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conferences. They are in the process of forming By-laws and Data Collection Committees and they have identified five top issues then workshops will be established throughout the year. This is an opportunity for us to represent at the federal and national level on legislative and government regulations, promote youth leadership program and increase our resources for consumers and other organizations.

On July 6, 2010, **NASADHH** held its first formal biennial meeting in Philadelphia, PA. Many state commissions and councils for the Deaf and hard of Hearing attended this important meeting and contributed to the development of six goals to focus and guide the NASADHH. They are:

1. Set standards throughout US for accessibility in health care situations.
2. Collect consistent, accurate, meaningful data and demographics
3. Sustain agencies, programs and services provided.
4. Develop and promote more local grassroots advocacy.
5. Establish minimum standards to ensure quality, licensed, better trained teachers of ASL.
6. Collaborate to defragment deaf education and vocational rehabilitation services.

The purpose of NASADHH is to function as the national voice of state agencies serving deaf and hard of hearing people and to promote the implementation of best practices in the provision of services.



## First Deaf Group Participates in Idaho STAR



students taking **STAR** courses. Idaho **STAR** has been happy to make arrangements to provide sign-language interpreters for these classes.

Idaho **STAR** developed an Interest List for people who wanted to take a **STAR** course with a sign-language interpreter in 2010. The Interest List helped to accomplish two goals:

- Gauge the need for sign-language interpreter assisted courses
- Allow Idaho **STAR** to schedule students and interpreters well ahead of time for greater efficiency

Based on the level of interest, Idaho **STAR** decided to offer a class geared towards deaf and hard of hearing students that would be provided with two sign-language interpreters who had motorcycling knowledge. The class was a Basic I Course for novice riders and was conducted in Boise May 21-23. Four deaf and hard of hearing students registered for the class. Registration was opened up to the general public two weeks prior to the class to meet the minimum number of students required to run the class. The class was well received by everyone involved.

If you or someone you know would like to get your name on an Interest List for 2011, or you would simply like more information, please contact Idaho **STAR**:

website [www.idahostar.org](http://www.idahostar.org)  
email [info@idahostar.org](mailto:info@idahostar.org)  
toll free 1-888-280-7827  
phone 1-208-639-4540



L to R: Josh Benney, Steven Snow, Nathan Brune, and Jeremy Gibbens

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## Idaho Transportation Department Initiating Written Driver's Test in ASL



Edward Pemble, Driver Services Manager, Idaho Transportation Department informed the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing that the Department of Motor Vehicles is working on an ASL version of the automated driver knowledge test. The video clips have been made and the next step will be to install them in the automated knowledge testing system. The questions will be randomized and the order of the answers will be randomized also so that each person takes a different test. The anticipated date of launch is September/October of 2010. Idaho will have the only ASL automated knowledge driver test in the nation.

Meanwhile, if you need to take the driver's test, the Department has contracted with Network Interpreting Services to provide interpreter services. Tell the test proctor ahead of time that you will need an interpreter and they will provide one for you.

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## ASSISTIVE EQUIPMENT SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The Idaho Center for Assistive Technology will be providing subsidy funding for a program to assist individuals to purchase assistive devices needed because they are deaf or hard of hearing.

The program is designed to help people who do not have any other financial resources to help them purchase equipment. The program will pay one-half (50%) of the cost of the equipment. Eligibility will depend on the cost of the equipment and the resources of the individual. The individual must pay for the other half of the cost at the time it is ordered. Please be prepared to provide proof of being an Idaho resident when applying for the grant.

The demonstration and loan centers where you can borrow the equipment are located:

### **BOISE**

Idaho Center for Assistive Technology  
5420 Franklin Road, Suite A  
Boise, Idaho 83705  
(208) 377-8070

### **IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology  
650 Memorial, Building 68  
Pocatello, Idaho 83209  
(208) 282-3495

### **IDAHO FALLS**

Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE)  
250 S. Skyline #1  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402  
(208) 529-8610

### **MOSCOW**

Disability Action Center (DAC)  
505 N. Main  
Moscow, Idaho 83843  
(208) 883-0523

### **COEUR D'ALENE**

Disability Action Center (DAC) NW  
1323 Sherman, Suite 2  
Coeur D'Alene, Idaho 83814  
(208) 664-9896

### **TWIN FALLS**

Living Independence Network Corp. (LINC)  
1182 N. Eastland Dr. Suite C  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301  
(208) 733-1712

### **CALDWELL**

Living Independence Network Corp. (LINC)  
1609 Kimball Suite B  
Caldwell, Idaho 83605  
(208) 454-5511

The following is a list of the equipment available:

Ameriphone Q90 TTY  
Ultratec Uniphone 1140 TTY  
Voice Carry Over with Port by Clarity  
Ameriphone Dialogue XL50 Amplified Phone  
Ultra Clear Amplifying Speakerphone with Caller ID  
DECT 6.0 Cordless Phone with Sound Boost  
IL95 Portable Phone Amplifier  
Ameriphone Alertmaster AM 6000 With Baby Monitor  
Shake Up Smoke Detector Kit  
Sonic System  
Sonic Ring Elite Deluxe Video Relay Signaler  
Sonic Boom Shake Awake Alarm Clock  
Portable Baby Monitor  
Pocket Talker II Personal Amplifier

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## **Deaf Friendly Documents By IDVR**

*Contributed by Doug Clapp – Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

In the past several months since I was given the honor of working with the Deaf and HH in the Treasure Valley, there have been many positive changes and improvements in the VR (Vocational Rehabilitation) process. While we still have plenty of room for improvement, we are becoming faster with the provision of services, ISDB, VR, and other agencies are working together even more to develop new programs designed to assist members of the Deaf Community in Career and Employment planning.

Our most recent project is to begin translating forms that VR uses with Clients most frequently. Steven Stubbs has agreed to translate the forms from written English to



video ASL. These videos will be available through the internet, probably via You Tube and Face Book. They are, of course, specifically for VR clients but will be available to anyone interested. Clients are encouraged to read all materials given to them to sign *before* signing them. We are excited to provide these forms in this video format to better inform, and to bring clarification of the VR process to clients and their family members.

We are also working on adding Closed Captioning and Voice Over to all of the videos which will make them accessible to many more individuals served by VR.

Stand by for future updates as our team continues to work toward development of ideas and programs to better serve the Deaf Community. ☺

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## Governor Otter Appoints New Council Members

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is pleased to announce the appointment by Governor Otter, 3 new board members. Following is a brief introduction to the new members. Please join the Council in welcoming these members who volunteer their time to support Idaho's deaf and hard of hearing population.

### Member who is an audiologist



**Shannon Gower (1st term)**

Term Expires 7/1/2011

Shannon Gower, Au.D received her Master of Science degree from Idaho State University in 2001 and her Doctorate in Audiology degree from Salus University in 2006. She has worked for Elks Hearing and Balance Centers in Boise since 2001. Her specialty areas include auditory brainstem response (ABR) testing, pediatric and adult diagnostic evaluations and hearing aid.

### Member who is hard of hearing and is over the age of 60



**Susan Koepnick (1<sup>st</sup> term)**

Term Expires 7/1/2011

Ms. Koepnick currently works as a Mental Health Counselor in Burley four days and Twin Falls on Fridays. She is currently organizing the Mini-Cassia Federation of Republican Women Club of which she is currently the President. She volunteers as an instructor in the Women's Shelter in Rupert.

In 1995-1996 she was one of ten people elected in the state of Idaho to be a delegate for the Small Business Conference in Washington, D.C. She attended monthly

issue sessions in Boise for the year and then represented her issue for micro businesses and the FICA tax, both in San Francisco and for five days in Washington, D.C.

### Member who is an interpreter



#### **Kathryn Montoya (1<sup>st</sup> term)**

Term Expires 7/1/2012

Kathryn Montoya M.S. CI/CT, NAD III, has been a nationally certified interpreter since 1990 and has been working as a community, education and VRS interpreter ever since. She began her career in Southern California working with the Greater Los Angeles Association of the Deaf (GLAD) and then moved to Idaho in 1994. Kathryn also teaches online interpreter training classes for Tennessee Temple University. Kathryn travels throughout the United States giving workshops, speaking and teaching from her self published books, *Fingerspelling/Numbers Workbook*, *How to Start and Keep a Deaf Ministry* and several other topics. Kathryn and her husband, Ray, have 5 children, 3 girls and 2 boys. Their last girl was adopted from China in 2007 and is profoundly

deaf. Kathryn also is the founder of Commissioned Believers Deaf Ministry; web-based international ministries which help to sponsor deaf ministries from all over the world and helps deaf orphans find their forever families. This is her first term on the board of the CDHH and she is excited to be able to serve in this capacity.

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## Council Seeks Nominations

### **Call for Nominations for Three More Board Members**

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. They have terms of one to three years, and every year there are three members whose terms expire. Article II, Section 3 of the Council's by-law requires the Council to advertise nominations for new Council members.

*The positions that are up for appointment for a two year term ending June 2013 are:*

- **A member who is deaf**

*The Council is still seeking **a physician** whose appointment would end June 2014.*

The position of Council member is one of leadership and includes the power to establish policy and govern. Such leadership implies the acceptance of a high commitment to work for the broad purposes and the objectives of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. A council member's wisdom, counsel, and support are vital to the success to the mission of the Council.

### **Responsibilities**

1. Give special knowledge and skills individually and through committee efforts to pursue established goals.

2. Serve on committees, as needed, in the area of interest and expertise.
3. Attend regularly scheduled quarterly meetings or notify Executive Director or Chairperson of non-attendance.
4. Provide constructive guidance and advice to the Council, its officers, and the Executive Director on all matters affecting the best interest of the Council's programs, financial stability, and governing procedures.
5. Review and approve an annual budget.
6. Represent the Council to the member's constituency and the public.
7. Keep the Council informed about activities of the organization or constituency the member represents and make sure that the Council is aware of problems being encountered by the member's constituency or organization.
8. Serve as an advocate for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Advocate for improving communication access, for identifying of children with hearing loss and for an increase in services to assist people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
9. Serve as a resource in the community for issues faced by people in the community who are deaf or hard of hearing and for providing information on accommodations and auxiliary services that can improve communication access.

The Council meets four times annually. The Council pays for travel, lodging and meal expenses.

Please contact the Council office for an application for nomination or [click here](#) to reach the website to download the application.

You also can submit the application to the Governor's office directly. Please click the hyperlink: [http://gov.idaho.gov/boards/BoardApplication\\_EntryForm.cfm](http://gov.idaho.gov/boards/BoardApplication_EntryForm.cfm)

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## Understanding Social Security

When a person is deaf or hard of hearing, they can apply for Social Security Benefits. Hearing issues are treated the same as any other disability when Social Security determines eligibility. Persons may qualify for either SSD or SSI. SSD are benefits granted for a disability, SSI are benefits that are based on low income need. A deaf child alone can receive SSD if their parent(s) are currently receiving SSD, or if the family is low income, the child can receive SSI payments.

People can apply over the phone with TTY or video phone. They can also apply through the website <http://www.ssa.gov> or call the toll free number 1-800-772-1213 if you have any questions or to set up an appointment.

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## Doris Ann Asmus-Jones Receives Golden Apple Award

Doris Ann Asmus-Jones is the first Educational Interpreter to receive this award. The following is an excerpt from when she was presented the award by the school district.

*It is our pleasure this evening to recognize an individual who has served students of the Boise School District for 25 years. This person consistently goes above and*

*beyond the call of duty.*

*While taking on the challenges that naturally go with being an interpreter, such as constant changes and requisite flexibility, this person maintains a high degree of professionalism and positive attitude. This person is very involved in the deaf community and goes out of her way to educate fellow staff members on interpreting and deafness. She takes numerous classes outside her field in order to better serve her classroom. She shows genuine care and concern for all of the students and staff she serves, even long after she is part of their classroom.*

*Tonight, we are delighted to honor Doris Ann Asmus-Jones, Educational Interpreter, Jefferson Elementary School, with the Golden Apple Award for March 2010, for outstanding service to education and for educating today for a better tomorrow.*

Congratulations, Doris Ann.

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### JoAnn Shopbell Receives RID Award

Congratulations to JoAnn Shopbell for receiving the Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Region V's Distinguished Service Award during the regional conference.

JoAnn Dobecki Shopbell has committed to education and development of sign language interpreters for the past 30 years. Through example and dedication, she raised the level of professionalism in the field. She taught at the College of Southern Idaho (CSI), from 1980 – 2002. During that time, she worked to have American Sign Language recognized as a language, and helped establish a Sign Language Studies A.A. program.

Raised by Deaf parents, JoAnn saw the value in professional interpreters and obtaining credentials. She holds an NAD Level V (Master), as well as RID's CSC and SC:L certifications. For well over a decade, she was Idaho's only certified legal interpreter.

In the early 1990's JoAnn served as President of the Conference of Interpreter Trainers. Later in the decade, she was recognized by the faculty as the "Teacher of the Year" at CSI. Program graduates include dozens of certified interpreters and a new generation of ASL and Interpreting faculty now working at several institutions.

After retiring from CSI, JoAnn became the personal interpreter for Dr. Angel Ramos, Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind's only Deaf Superintendent. After two years in that position, she became the Educational Interpreting Training Coordinator for the state of Idaho, and chaired the Educational Interpreter Interagency Consortium. She championed the passage of a state qualification law for educational interpreters. JoAnn served as a member of the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, representing interpreter interests throughout the state for more than a decade.

Again, Congratulations JoAnn.

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### Names of Deaf-Friendly Businesses Sought



The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is soliciting information about deaf friendly businesses throughout Idaho. If you know of a business or a professional office that is especially deaf friendly please contact the Council as we will be creating a directory of those businesses. You can email the information to Cindy at [schreinc@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:schreinc@dhw.idaho.gov). We look forward to hearing from you and are excited about this new endeavor.



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## Save the Date

### Mark Your Calendar – Tools for Life Fair

*By Sue House, Information Specialist – Idaho Assistive Technology Project*

The Seventh Annual Tools for Life Secondary Transition and Technology Fair will be held March 7 and 8, 2011, at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls. For parents, students with disabilities, and service providers, the Fair is a great place to learn about transitioning from high school on to life! For agencies and vendors the Fair is a great opportunity to share their knowledge and resources! Every year the Fair has been a great success! Don't miss this excellent opportunity to learn from others who have successfully transitioned.

If you are interested in presenting or exhibiting at this event, please contact Sue House at 1-800-432-8324 or email at [sueh@uidaho.edu](mailto:sueh@uidaho.edu). Look for registration to be available on our website at [www.idahoat.org/dnn](http://www.idahoat.org/dnn) later this fall.

The Fair is sponsored by and in collaboration with the Idaho State Department of Education, the Council on Developmental Disabilities, Idaho Parents Unlimited and the Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition.

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## COME AND VISIT US IN OUR NEW OFFICE

Come by a visit us at our new offices. We are in the same complex located in the Westgate Health and Welfare building. Our address is the same – 1720 Westgate Drive, however we now are in SUITE A-2. Drop by anytime during office hours (8:00 – 5:00). We would love to see you.



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## Jack Downey Dies

*Published in Idaho Statesman, July 20, 2010*



Jack Downey, 89, passed away, Saturday, July 17, 2010 from natural causes. Jack was born in Castleford, Idaho on April 26, 1921. He was the last of three children born to John and Hallie Downey. He always had fond memories of his siblings, Bessie and Andy. They were very close even though there were far apart in age. He also had a half-brother named Charles whom everyone called Chalk. Jack was diagnosed with spinal meningitis at the age of 6 ½. He nearly lost his life until a young doctor at the Twin Falls hospital gave him a spinal injection which saved his life. As a result, Jack lost his hearing but maintained his excellent speech and lip reading skills throughout his life. Something he as always very proud of. One thing he missed hearing was his love for music and listening to his brother, Andy, sing. Jack's mother, Hallie, decided it would be best to move the two of them to Gooding, Idaho where the School for the Deaf was located and he could get a quality education. His father stayed back and worked on the farm. Hallie was Jack's backbone and enjoyed working at the school, making a lasting impression among the Deaf there. Jack thoroughly enjoyed his school years at ISDB excelling in sports as well as made lifetime friendships with the Deaf. He was also Valedictorian of his class. Jack loved growing up in the country where he played with his part-wolf/Shepard dog named Ranger. During the winters, he would hop on his sled, hold onto Ranger's tail and off they went into town in the snow. It was one of his favorite childhood memories. He also learned the value of hard work by pitching hay on the farm. He loved visiting his sister and brother-in-law in Ketchum, Idaho where Melvin was a forest ranger. Jack loved telling the story of how he met the famous author, Ernest Hemingway, on the streets of Ketchum. Ernie, as Jack called him, bought him a coke one day after learning that he was deaf. After graduating from ISDB in 1941, Jack and his parents moved to Long Beach, California, where they were closer to family and also could help out with the war effort. Jack tried to enlist in the Merchant Marines when a fellow friend noticed him in line when trying to sign up. He was very proud of his country and wanted to fight for it. Of course, he knew he was caught and the military didn't accept the young enlisted who had a physical handicap. Jack worked a number of years in the shipyard during the war as well as attended the University of Southern California obtaining his engineering draftsman's license. Jack had no interpreter and had to rely on lip reading his professors as well as depending on his classmates' notes. After graduation, Jack worked as an engineering draftsman at Bechtel Corporation for a few years. Jack met his future wife, Ella, through a friend at a basketball tournament for the Deaf in Los Angeles. They only knew each other six months and corresponded through letter writing before getting married in Vancouver, Wash. In 1949. They lived in Vancouver for two years where Jack was dean of the boys' dormitory at the Washington School for the Deaf. Jack and Ella decided to move to their future home of 58 years to Boise. Jack worked as an engineering draftsman for the Highway Dept., Idaho Power and Intermountain Gas for about 10 years. He moonlighted on the side and slowly started his lifetime business in the custodial world. His business grew rapidly so he resigned from Idaho Power. Jack would rise and shine each day at 4:30 a.m. and worked hard over the following 50 years to make his janitorial business a big success. He was always proud of what he accomplished with his business making customers happy. His children were all at one time or another, employees of the business where they learned to be responsible and work hard. Jack was extremely proud of his 3 children and their life's accomplishments and bragged about them to friends and family every chance he could get. Jack made an indelible mark in the deaf community in Boise as well as in the state of Idaho. He advocated for the Deaf in every way possible. He held every office position while being a member of the Idaho Association of the Deaf. Throughout the years, he attended every convention in the state and was a representative for the state at many National Association of the Deaf conventions throughout the U.S. The association bestowed an Emeritus award to him in 2004 for his lifetime achievement in working with the Deaf. Jack is survived by his beloved family; his wife of 60 years, Ella (Luke) Downey, his son, Marty Downey and his wife, Janet, another son, Andy



Downey, all of Boise, Idaho; his daughter, Trina Downey who lives in Italy; his cousin, Mary Delavergn of Southern California; many nieces, nephews and many close friends throughout Idaho. Throughout Jack's life he cherished his friends from many walks of life. He always greeted everyone with a smile and a hello. It was his love for his family and friends that were the most important to him. A memorial service was held on Saturday, July 24, 2010 with a private family gravesite service at Morris Hill Cemetery the following week. The family ask that donations be made to the Idaho Association of the Deaf.

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### Personal Note From Cindy

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, and good wishes during my recent illness. I am finished with treatment and on the road to recovery. Again, thank you so much for your support.

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### Upcoming Events

To see a list of upcoming events, please click [here](#).

**DEAF CENTER OF IDAHO**  
**4TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL**  
5450 N. LINDER ROAD, MERIDIAN  
SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 6TH

**10A.M. - 5P.M.**

*Holiday Gifts*      **CRAFTS**

**Decor Items**      *Homemade Goods*

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